

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A device for positioning a total knee prosthesis, comprising:

a tensioning component (1) having

- a tensioning component plate (2) configured to be supported on a tibial cut ~~cutting~~ surface,

- sliding means (3) extending from said tensioning component plate (2),

- a slide (5) displaceable on the sliding means (3) in a direction substantially perpendicular relative to the tensioning component plate (2) and having means (6, 11) for being temporarily fixedly joined to an ancillary component (20),

the ancillary component (20) i) comprising a tibial plate (21) and a centro-medullary rod (22) extending from the tibial plate (21), and ii) configured to receive adjusting means of variable thicknesses, the adjusting means positioned at the end of a femur when a knee is in a state of flexion at approximately 90°, to allow spacing in an extended state of an articulation to be obtained,

- a motor means (8, 10) for displacing the slide (5) and thereby tensioning the knee by way of the tensioning component plate (2) pressed on ~~[[a]]~~ the tibial cut and the ancillary component (20) fixedly joined to the slide (5),

- a drilling guide (30) mounted on the sliding means (3) and having drilled holes (37) for positioning a cutting block on the femur to allow posterior femoral cuts to be brought about,

the drilling guide (30) configured to receive means for palpating an anterior portion of the femur for positioning the drilling guide (30) in alignment with the anterior portion, ~~and~~

- reference means (EF) for determining a position of the slide (5) and/or the drilling guide (30) relative to the tensioning component plate (2) and therefore determine an interarticular space available in the state of flexion, and

- a size estimation component (40) for palpating an anterior end of the femur, the size estimation component having a member (41) configured to slide on the sliding means (3), the member (41) having a transverse palpating arm (43) articulated about a shaft (44) parallel with a sliding axis of the member on the sliding means,

the device thus allowing either a position of a distal femoral cutting plane to be determined by determining a difference between a spacing in a state of extension and a space in the state of flexion, or a position of a posterior femoral

cutting plane to be determined in order to obtain approximate equality between the spacing in the state of extension and the space in the state of flexion.

2. (cancelled).

3. (currently amended) The device according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the dimension of the tensioning component plate (2) is such that a femoral end can be received between the tensioning component plate and the size estimation component (40), in the manner of a calliper rule.

4. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a distal cutting guide support (50) having i) a member (51) configured to slide on the sliding means (3) and an arm (54) extending from said member (51) which extends parallel with the axis of the knee in the state of flexion, and ii) means for receiving and for fixing the distal cutting guide at a precise location, the precise location determined by a calculation of the difference between the spacing in the state of extension and the space in the state of flexion.

5. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the slide (5) is configured to be displaced by means

of an assembly comprising a screw (8) and a nut (10) to slide the slide (5) and place the knee in a state of tension.

6. (previously presented) The device according to claim 5, wherein the sliding means (3) have an internal runner and the slide (5) is guided in the internal runner, and

the sliding means have an outer surface for guiding at least the drilling guide (30), the slide having a portion which allows the drilling guide to be moved.

7. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the drilling guide (30) is configured to receive a palpating arm configured to press on the anterior surface of the femoral end to limit the insertion of the drilling guide on a guiding means in order to optimise a drilling position.

8. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the slide (5) has

i) reliefs (11) for precise positioning, relative to the slide, of the tibial plate (21) of the ancillary component (20), and

ii) a rapid fixing means (6) for temporarily fixedly joining the tibial plate (21) to the slide (5).

9. (cancelled).

10. (currently amended) A device for positioning a total knee prosthesis, comprising:

an ancillary component (20) ~~with a tibial plate (21)~~  
~~and~~ comprising a centro-medullary rod (22) and a rod base (21),  
the centro-medullary rod (22) extending from a first surface of  
the rod base-tibial plate (21), the rod base comprising base  
mounting element (23, 25), the centro-medullary rod configured to  
be introduced into a femoral medullary canal; and

a displacement component (1), the displacement  
component comprising i) a tibial plate (2) configured to be  
supported on a surface of a tibial cut extending completely  
across the tibia with a lowermost surface of the displacement  
component bearing against the tibial cut and the displacement  
component being completely above the tibia cutting surface, ii) a  
displacement element, the displacement element operable to  
displace the tibial plate and the rod base with respect to each  
other, and iii) an displacement component mounting element  
located on the displacement element, the displacement component  
mounting element engaging with the base mounting element to mount  
the rod base to the displacement element with the rod base being  
approximately 90 degrees to the tibial plate

~~a tensioning component~~

~~a tensioning component (1) having~~

~~—a sliding means (3) extending perpendicularly from a surface of the tensioning component plate (2),~~

~~—a slide (5) on the sliding means (3) and displaceable with the sliding means (3) in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the tensioning component plate (2), and releasably fixedly joined to the tibial plate of the ancillary component (20),~~

~~—a motor means (8, 10) for displacing the slide (5) to tension a knee in a mode wherein the tensioning component plate (2) is pressed on a tibial cut and the centro-medullary rod (22) of the ancillary component (20) is in a femoral medullary canal of a femur,~~

~~—a drilling guide (30) mounted on the sliding means (3) and having drilled holes (37) for positioning a cutting block on the femur to allow execution of posterior femoral cuts, the drilling guide (30) configured to receive means for palpating an anterior portion of the femur for positioning the drilling guide (30) in alignment with the anterior portion,~~

~~—and reference means (EF) for determining the position of at least one of the slide (5) and the drilling guide (30) relative to the tensioning component plate (2), and for determining an interarticular space available in a state of flexion.~~

11. (cancelled).

12. (new) The device of claim 10, wherein,  
the rod base is a plate with a second surface opposite the first surface, the second surface being generally planar,  
the base mounting element is an oblong passage with a central hole and diametrically opposed notches,  
the displacement component mounting element is a bayonet element for engagement with the oblong passage,  
the tibial plate is generally planar with a lowermost planar surface configured to be supported on the tibial cut with a lowermost surface of the displacement component bearing against the tibial cut, and  
the displacement element is vertically aligned with the tibial axis.

13. (new) The device of claim 12, wherein,  
the displacement element comprises i) a slide housing (3) extending from an upper surface of the tibial plate, and ii) a slide (5) displaceable on the slide housing, the slide housing and the slide positioned completely over the tibial plate,  
the bayonet element is attached to the slide, and  
the rod base, when mounted on the slide, is positioned in vertical alignment with the tibial plate.

14. (new) The device of claim 10, wherein,  
the displacement element comprises i) a slide housing (3) extending from an upper surface of the tibial plate, and ii) a slide (5) displaceable on the slide housing, the slide housing and the slide positioned completely over the tibial plate,

the rod base mounts to the slide, and

the rod base, when mounted on the slide, is positioned in vertical alignment with the tibial plate.

15. (new) A device for positioning a total knee prosthesis, comprising:

an ancillary component (20) comprising a centro-medullary rod (22) and an attachment part (21) located at a proximal end thereof, the centro-medullary rod configured to be introduced into a femoral medullary canal; and

an displacement component (1), the displacement component comprising i) a connecting element removably engaging with the attachment part, ii) a tibial plate, and iii) a displacement element movably attached to the connecting element and attached at one end to the tibial plate, the displacement element operative to displace the connecting element and the tibial plate with respect to each other between a first position, where the centro-medullary rod and tibial plate are separated by a first distance, and a second position, where the centro-



medullary rod and tibial plate are separated by a second distance that is greater than the first distance.

16. (new) The device of claim 15, wherein,  
the attachment part comprises an oblong passage with a central hole and diametrically opposed notches,  
the tibial plate is generally planar with a lowermost planar surface configured to be supported on a tibial cut with a lowermost surface of the displacement component bearing against the tibial cut, and  
the displacement element is vertically aligned with the tibial axis.

17. (new) The device of claim 15, wherein,  
the attachment part comprises a rod plate  
the tibial plate (2) is configured to be supported on a surface of a tibial cut extending completely across the tibia with a lowermost surface of the displacement component bearing against the tibial cut with the displacement component being completely above the tibia,  
the displacement element engages with the rod plate with the rod plate being approximately 90 degrees to the tibial plate.

18. (new) The device of claim 17, wherein,  
the displacement element comprises i) a slide housing (3) extending from an upper surface of the tibial plate,  
the connecting element comprises a slide (5) displaceable on the slide housing, the slide housing and the slide positioned completely over the tibial plate.